

Serial No. 09/920,827

Docket No. HI-0038

Reply to Office Action of November 3, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawings includes changes to Figs. 1-3 and 5A. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-5C, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-5C. Figs. 1-3 now include the labeling "Related Art". Fig. 5A is changed correct an incorrect arrow for item 32.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, the specification is amended, Figs. 1-3 and 5A are replaced, the Abstract is revised, claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 17-19 and 21 are amended and claims 23-31 are added. No new matter has been added.

Support for new claims 23-31 is found throughout the specification, drawing figures, and original claims as filed. For the following reasons, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. FORMAL MATTERS

A. Drawings

Drawing Figs. 1-3 are replaced to include the label of Related Art, and Fig. 5A is replaced to correct an incorrect arrow.

B. Specification

The Abstract is amended to be less than 150 words. Paragraph 20 of the specification is amended for clarity.

II. REPLY TO REJECTIONS

A. 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page 2, item 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 7-8, 11-13 and 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,594,472 to Curtis et al. (hereinafter "Curtis").

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Curtis discloses a cell phone having a front housing, a back housing, and an inner main housing where the front and back housings are attached to each other and also to the inner housing so that the overall front and back appearances of the telephone may be changed (see, for example, Abstract and col. 1, lines 48-54 of Curtis). In order to change the overall appearance, both the front and the back housing must be changed. Curtis does not disclose or suggest replacing just a cover for a button portion.

Specifically, Curtis discloses a front cover 2 that is releasably attached to the inner housing 4 mostly by means of a snap on connection, and a rear cover 3 that is releasably attachable to the lower portion of the inner housing 4 mostly by means of a slidable coupling of blunt lugs (see, for example, Figs. 1 and 3-6, col. 3, lines 17-30 of Curtis).

As shown in Figs. 3 and 4 of Curtis, a front cover 2 has attachment lugs 32 that project sideways from the inner sides and cooperate with the slots 28 on the main body 4 for snap attachment. The front cover 2 also contains attachment lugs 30 each projecting vertically and having a channel lug 31 that is inserted into the channels 29 of the main body 4. The channels 29 extend through the inner housing 4 from the top to the bottom (i.e., front to back). The purpose of the attachment lugs 30 and the channels 31 will be explained further below (see, for example, col. 4, lines 11-34 of Curtis).

As shown in Figs. 5 and 6 of Curtis, the back cover 3 contains an L-shaped pair of attachment lugs 37 that project vertically, a second L-shaped pair of attachment lugs 38 that project vertically, an aperture 39, and two attachment lugs 40 on top of the rear cover 3. The L-

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shaped attachment lugs 37 are inserted into the lugs 35 on a back side of the inner housing 4 while the second L-shaped attachment lugs 38 are inserted into the lug 29 on the back lower side of the inner housing 4, and which are formed through the inner housing 4 from back to front. These second attachment lugs 38 are then inserted into the channel 31 of the attachment lugs 30 formed on the front cover 2. The cooperation between the lugs 30 of the front cover 2 and the second L-shaped attachment lugs 38 of the back cover are shown in Fig. 1 where the first housing 2 pivots about the inserted lug 30 so that tops of the first housing 2 and the second housing 3 are brought together and snapped into place to cover the inner housing 4 from the front and the back (see, for example, col. 4, lines 35-48 of Curtis).

It is disclosed in Curtis that the rear cover 3 is slid in the length direction of the rear cover 3 against the inner housing 4 and allows the L-shaped lugs 37 to engage the inner housing lugs 35 (see, for example, col. 4, lines 53-57). Therefore, the slidable attachment of the rear cover 3 to the inner housing 4 occurs by the L-shaped pair of attachment lugs 37 and 38 being inserted into the corresponding holes 35 and 29.

It is clear that the lugs 35 and the lugs 29 formed in the inner housing 4 as shown in Figs. 3 and 5 are not grooves because a groove is commonly understood as a long and narrow channel. The lugs 35 and 29 are blunt holes, not long and narrow channels, and therefore not the straight grooves, as recited in claim 1 or an elongated groove, as recited in claim 12, or long narrow channels as recited in claim 21. Further, the L-shaped pair of attachment lugs 37 and 38 are hooks that project vertically and are configured to be stabbed into, and then slid over to

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hook themselves to the lugs such as 35 and 29. They are not elongated attachment structures which are configured to be removably and slidingly fitted along the plurality of elongated grooves, as recited in claim 12, or long and narrow ridges that extend along and into the channels as recited in claim 21.

Further, it is clear from the Figs. 1, 3 and 4 of Curtis that the first housing 2 covers the entire front surface of the inner housing 4 and not just a button portion. Further, the first housing 2 has an attachment element 33 formed on a top part that allows the front cover 2 to be attached to both the inner housing 4 and then receive the attachment lugs 40 formed on the rear cover 3 to be snap fitted. The front cover 2, therefore, has sufficient area to not only cover a button portion, but also the entire front face of the inner housing 4. Consequently, Curtis fails to disclose or suggest an interchangeable button cover configured to cover substantially only a plurality of key buttons on said telephone body, as recited in claim 12.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 12 and 21 are patentable over Curtis. As to claim 6, although not listed in this rejection, for similar reasons as to claims 12 and 21, claim 6 is also patentable. Specifically, Curtis fails to disclose or suggest button covers substantially covering only a plurality of buttons, or a frame configured for slidingly mounting along a mobile telephone body.

Claims 3, 18 and 19, which depend from claim 1, claims 7, 8 and 11, which depend from claim 6, claims 13, 16, 17, and 20 which depend from claim 12, and claim 22, which depends from claim 21, are likewise patentable over Curtis for at least the reasons discussed above and

for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

B. 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 3, item 5 of the Office Action, claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Curtis, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,848,152 to Slipy et al. (hereinafter "Slipy"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Curtis fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of independent claims 1, 6, 12 and 21. Slipy fails to overcome the deficiencies in Curtis. Consequently, claims 2, 4, and 5, which depend from claim 1, claims 9 and 10, which depend from claim 6, and claims 14 and 15, which depend from claim 12, are likewise patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above, and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. NEW CLAIMS

New claims 23-31 are patentable over the applied references. Due consideration is respectfully requested.

V. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are

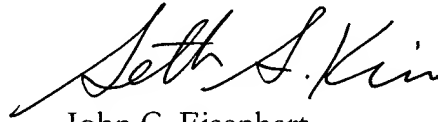
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earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Seth S. Kim**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seth S. Kim", written in a cursive style.

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